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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,496	04/25/2001	Fabio Casati	10007893-1	7375

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

NANO, SARGON N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,496

Applicant(s)

CASATI ET AL.

Examiner

Sargon N Nano

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1- 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to restriction/election requirement received on Sep. 27, 2004. Applicant elected claims 1 – 10 without traverse.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lipman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,192,051. (referred to hereafter as Lipman).

As to claim 1, Lipman teaches computer-enabled workflow process system, comprising: a node group database that stores a group of work nodes referred to by a generic node, wherein a work node defines a workflow action and data items to be read and written when executing the workflow action (see col. 7 lines 16 – 33, col. 8 lines 8 – 13 and fig.1, Lipman discloses the control and maintenance of a large routing database);

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a workflow engine that executes a workflow process having the generic node, wherein the workflow engine accesses the node group database for the group of work nodes when the generic node is to be executed so as to allow dynamic composition and modification of the workflow process (see col. 7 line 17 – 50, Lipman discloses the operation performed by the system controller where information is continually updated and distributed).

As to claim 2, Lipman teaches the system of claim 1, wherein work nodes can be added to or removed from the node group dynamically without requiring the workflow process to be redefined (see col. 11, line 65 – col. 12, line 14, and fig. 7 Lipman discloses the capability of the system controller of adding and deleting routing entries).

As to claim 3, Lipman teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the node group database stores a plurality of groups of work nodes, each being referred to by at least one generic node (see col.7 lines 17 – 32 and figs. 1, 4. Lipman discloses the node group database which stores and maintains a large routing database of multiple devices).

As to claim 4, Lipman teaches the system of claim 3, wherein each generic node can refer to more than one group of work nodes (see col. 6 line 65 – col. 7 line 5 and col. 10 lines 16 – 26, Lipman discloses the implementation of Internet Protocol for routing requests or datagram among various network devices).

As to claim 5, Lipman teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the

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workflow engine further comprises a static instance manager that manages execution of work nodes within the workflow process (see col. 16 lines 42 – 51 Lipman discloses how the forwarding table is created and the execution of forwarding that is done by the controller);

an adaptive instance manager that accesses the node group database for the group of work nodes to replace the generic node (see col. 4, lines 18 – 33, Lipman discloses routing tables that carry out the routing function).

As to claim 6, Lipman teaches the system of claim 5, wherein the adaptive instance manager receives attributes of the generic node to determine which work nodes within the group are to replace the generic node (see col. 8 lines 56 – col. 9 line 9 and fig. 4, Lipman discloses the extracting of the address of the receiving packet and replacing it with an address of the destination).

As to claim 7, Lipman teaches the system of claim 5, wherein the adaptive instance manager further comprises

a first set of instructions that receive attributes of the generic node from the group of work nodes (see col. 9, lines 47 – 49, Lipman discloses the reception of the attributes or requests by the network device by receiving a frame that needs to be forwarded to a desired destination).

a second set of instructions that determine which work nodes within the group are described by the generic node (see col. 9 lines 49 – 52, Lipman discloses the determination of work node by using the destination address look up table to determine the next node);

a third set of instructions that replace the generic node with all of the work nodes within the group that are described by the generic node (see col. 9 lines 47 – 67, Lipman discloses the replacement of the request address by an IP address and forwarding the request to the work node within the group).

As to claim 8, Lipman teaches in a workflow process management system, a computer-implemented method of executing a workflow process having at least a generic node, comprising

storing a group of work nodes corresponding to the generic node in a node group database, wherein the node group database stores a plurality of groups of work nodes, wherein a work node defining a workflow action and data items to be read and written when executing the workflow action (see col. 7, lines 17 – 33, Lipman discloses large routing database referred to as a routing table);

accessing the node group database for the group of work nodes when the generic node is to be executed (see col. 15, lines 32 – 56, Lipman discloses the accessing of entries in a forwarding table) ;

executing work nodes in the group such that the workflow process can be dynamically composed and modified without requiring that the workflow process be redefined (see col. 7 line 17 – 50 , Lipman discloses the operation performed by the system controller where information is continually updated and distributed).

As to claim 9, Lipman teaches the method of claim 8, wherein work nodes can be added to or removed from the group without redefining its corresponding workflow process (see col. 11, line 65 – col. 12, line 14, and fig. 7 Lipman

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discloses the capability of the system controller of adding and deleting routing entries).

As to claim 10, Lipman teaches the method of claim 8, further comprising the step of determining when the generic node in the workflow process is to be executed (see col.7 lines 17 – 32 and figs. 1, 4. Lipman discloses the node group database which stores and maintains a large routing database of multiple devices).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Priority queue Management system for The Transmission Of Data Frames From A Node In A Network Node By Le Pennec et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,771,653.

- Distributed Workflow Resource Management System And Method By Du et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,826,239.

- System And Method For Performing Consistent Workflow Process Execution In A workflow management By Du. U.S. Patent No. 6,052,684.

- Apparatus And Method For Processing A Task In A Clustered Computing Environment by Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,625,639

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- QOS-based virtual private network using ATM-based Internet virtual connections by Yamano, U.S. Patent No. 6,636,516.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sargon N Nano whose telephone number is (571) 272-4007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hour.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system; contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sargon Nano
Art Unit 2157
Dec. 1, 2004


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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